

From: Roy Seneca/R3/USEPA/US
Sent: 5/14/2012 4:09:43 PM
To: mike@truthout.org
CC: Terri-A White/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
Subject: Re: Follow up Re: EPA Releases Fourth Set of Sampling Results for Dimock Wells

Mike -- Sorry for not getting back to you sooner. I got your voice message. Here is the EPA response to your email.

As previously noted, EPA would have reason to take further action if data showed levels of contaminants that pose a health concern. Where contaminants were found in the 61 homes that do not have a designated MCL, our toxicologists and risk assessors thoroughly reviewed all the toxicological data and concluded that none of the levels detected present a significant health concern.

Regarding barium, two wells sampled had levels of barium above EPA's Maximum Contaminant Level of 2,000 ug/l. Both residents have a reverse osmosis treatment system installed, but EPA was only able to sample one well post-treatment to verify that the system is successfully removing barium from the water. Because the second resident was unavailable, EPA did not collect a post-treatment sample from the other well but has discussed the situation with the homeowner.

Regarding lead, one home had elevated levels at the well, but the levels at the tap were below our screening levels.

Regarding manganese, five wells sampled had levels of manganese at the tap above EPA's 50 ug/l guideline (secondary MCL) for taste and odor, but well below the suggested intake for an adult of 1680 ug/day from drinking water.

Yes, the one well with very high arsenic levels was the home where the resident was offered alternate water by EPA but declined.

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From: Mike Ludwig <mike@truthout.org>
To: Roy Seneca/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 05/14/2012 01:50 PM
Subject: Follow up Re: EPA Releases Fourth Set of Sampling Results for Dimock Wells

Roy, thanks for the timely response. I'm still a bit confused - what is the standard that EPA is using to determine that contaminant levels do not pose a health concern?

I looked through the entire data set, and several wells had levels of barium, lead, manganese and arsenic that exceeded primary or secondary MCLs, which are "the maximum level of a contaminant in drinking water at which no known or anticipated adverse effect on the health of persons would occur," according to EPA. I'm assuming the one well with very high arsenic levels was the home where water replacement was offered.

So is the EPA going on MCLs or another standard?

Also, a chemist speaking on behalf of Water Defense claims several contamination levels exceed EPA's Safe Drinking Water Advisory Level and US Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry. Here's the link: <http://www.waterdefense.org/content/response-usepa-region-3-press-release-may-11-2012> Any response to Dr. Bishop's claims is appreciated.

Thank you for taking the time to clarify what standard EPA is using to determine that water in Dimock wells does not pose a health concern.

Best,

Mike Ludwig

On Fri, May 11, 2012 at 11:49 AM, Roy Seneca <Seneca.Roy@epamail.epa.gov> wrote:
EPA would have reason to take further action if data showed levels of contaminants that pose a health concern.

We have now completed sampling of 61 homes included in our assessment. (Data is only posted for 59 homes because there are two homes where we were not able to contact residents and provide them with data.)

To provide certainty to residents and ensure a thorough and accurate analysis, EPA will resample the four wells where previous Cabot and state data showed levels of contaminants that pose a health concern but where EPA's initial round of sampling data did not detect levels that would require action. EPA is also following-up with 3 homeowners who expressed interest in initial sampling but have not yet scheduled a time for the sampling to take place.

Once all of the sample results are complete, we will conduct a comprehensive review to determine if there are any trends or patterns in the data as it relates to home well water quality. Our actions will continue to be based on the best available science and legal authorities.

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From: Mike Ludwig <mike@truthout.org>
To: Roy Seneca/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 05/11/2012 01:16 PM
Subject: Re: EPA Releases Fourth Set of Sampling Results for Dimock Wells

Roy, I just need two quick clarifications:

- What levels of contaminants would give reason for further action? Exceeding federal MCLs?
- Is this study completed, with this being EPA's last release? Or is further analysis going to be done in the lab?

Thanks!

~~Mike Ludwig, Truthout Reporter~~

On Fri, May 11, 2012 at 8:19 AM, Roy Seneca <Seneca.Roy@epamail.epa.gov> wrote:
EPA has completed and shared with residents and Pennsylvania state officials the fourth set of sampling for 12

private drinking water wells in Dimock, Pa. This set of sampling did not show levels of contaminants that would give EPA reason to take further action. At one well, EPA found an elevated level of methane and informed the resident, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and the Susquehanna County Emergency Management Agency. Throughout EPA's work in Dimock, the Agency has used the best available scientific data to provide clarity to Dimock residents and address their concerns about the safety of their drinking water.

For more information on the sampling results, visit: <http://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/states/pa.html>

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